

## FORM B - BUILDING

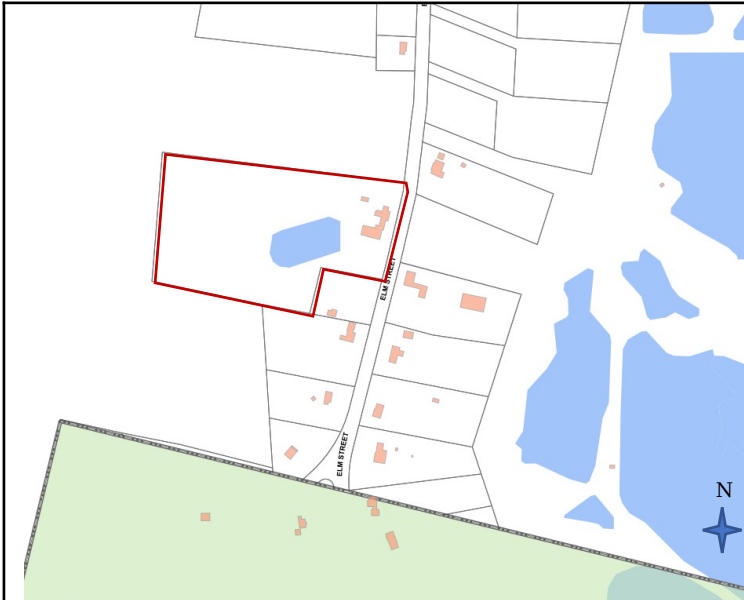
**Date** (*month / year*): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

### Photograph



### Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson  
community preservation + planning

**Organization:** Hanson Historical Commission

20-0-1-0

Hanover

HNS.211

**Town/City:** Hanson

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):

**Address:** 482 Elm Street

**Historic Name:** Major Thomas and Mercy  
Hobart House

**Uses:** Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single-Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1800

**Source:** White's History, Plan No. 1, Page 8

**Style/Form:** Federal/Cape

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Parged Concrete  
(possibly over fieldstone)

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle, Wood  
Clapboard/Wood  
Roof: Wood Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Barn connected to house, wood picket fence, pond  
and potential other farming structures located to  
west of house

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): One story  
addition to north façade and connecting addition  
to south façade with the barn (ca. 1903-1919)

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒      yes ☐      **Date:**

**Acreage:** 9.09 Acres

**Setting:** Located in a sparsely settled residential  
area near the southern border of Hanson which is  
characterized by large, forested lots and farmland  
with Town of Hanson conservation land to the  
north and west and the Burrage Pond Wildlife  
Management Area to the east.

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☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The one-and-a-half story Federal period Cape house is a remarkably well preserved example of a New England connected farmstead as described by Thomas Hubka in Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England (1984). The original house has a wood shingled gable roof over its wide, rectangular original form. Lower wood shingle, gable roofed additions extends from the north and south façades, with the south façade addition serving as a connector between the house and the two-and-a-half story gable-end roofed barn to the south. The main house and barn are wood shingle sided while the additions to the south and north are wood clapboard sided. The gable roof of the main house projects out slightly over the wood board cornice on the gable facades. The additions to the south and north are missing the cornice board but have the same projecting eaves and soffits. The gable-end roofs end flush with the building, with a narrow painted band of flat trim along the outer edges of the pediment that widen as they extends out past the façade to fill in each corner. The corner boards and window frames are also simple in their detailing, with no addition trim and only a narrow projecting sill below each window. The house has retained its original or early six-over-six double hung windows which are protected behind storm windows. A narrow painted square brick chimney is located to the right of center on the original house while a larger but similarly detailed chimney is located in the south addition and a third runs up the north façade of the north addition.

The house faces east towards the street and has a wide street façade. The front façade of the original Cape style building is symmetrical in design with two double hung windows to either side of the center entrance, each of which is surrounded by working wood shutters. The front entrance is surrounded by wide, flat boards and extends up into the cornice. A narrow, three paned transom window is located above the solid wood door which is protected by a storm door. To either side of the door are tall wood shutters. The door has a wood entry step with concrete steps leading to a brick walkway with branches leading to the street and the parking area to the south of the house.

The south gable-end has a small triangular vent in its peak over a single window with wood shutters in the gable-end and in the southeast corner of the first floor. The rest of the gable-end is obscured by the south addition, which has its roof peak even with the west roof slope of the main house, with the east roof slope of the addition extending across the southwest corner of the original façade. A shed dormer on the west façade of the main house is visible around the corner of the building. The east façade of the south façade has a long, unbroken gable roof with inset entrances at each end. The entrance adjacent to the main house has wood posts and open wood railings with square balusters surrounding the opening into the inset porch. A door and window are just visible at the rear of the porch. At the opposite end of the façade, the opening has no railings and a replacement door is visible at the rear of the open porch. At the center of the addition is a large, divided light bay window. The roof of the bay is an extension of the gable roof slope and there is nothing supporting its lower edge. The center of the bay is a large divided light picture window, with double hung windows on each side. Narrow wood shutters are located to either side of the bay.

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The south façade of the south addition ends in the north façade of the barn and extends out slightly beyond the east façade of the barn. The barn is set into the slope of the site, with a slightly shortened east façade compared to its south and west facades. The east façade of the barn has a wide projecting gable-end roof finished with wood molding at the eaves and wide flat soffits surrounding the pediment. Narrow returns extend out from each corner over narrow corner boards. A long flagpole extends out from the peak of the gable end over a double hung window. Far below, the first floor has a large divided light picture window at its center with a double hung window on either side. Below, two rectangular fixed windows are set at the center of the façade just above the foundation. On the south façade of the barn, a low stone wall extends along a paved driveway to the west of the site. A large sliding wood board barn door is located in the southeast corner of the façade level with the street, and a second door is located in the southwest corner leading into the lower level of the building. A long shed roofed addition to the west façade of the barn has a pedestrian entrance and smaller double hung window.

The north façade of the original Cape is identical to the south façade, including the overlapping addition to the west half of the façade. Here the addition is much smaller and lower, with a single shallow bay at the center of its east façade. This bay is a smaller version of the one on the east façade of the south addition and has no shutters. Dense vegetation surrounds the north side of the property and obscures the north façade of the addition from view.

A white picket fence runs across the east property line and a grass lawn separates the house from the street. The lot is level to the east between the house and the street, and slopes down to the south and west. The house is surrounded by decorative plantings and bushes, with a few mature trees dotting the yard. A wide asphalt paved parking area is located to the south of the barn, with a low stone wall along its north and west sides that separates the east yard from the parking area, and a narrower asphalt paved drive with a wood board gate runs along the south façade of the barn to the western half of the site. Dense vegetation and trees surround the north and south property lines, while a pond and open fields lie to the west of the house.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

According to White's History of Hanson, 482 Elm Street was built in 1800 by a Mr. Harding who later sold it to Major Hobart. This could be Major Thomas Hobart (1769-1848), who lived in Hanson with his wife, Mercy (1769-1849). Major Hobart died on February 14, 1848. The 1830 Smith Plan identifies the house as belonging to "C. Howland," most likely Caleb Howland (1806-1837) who appears on both the census and map as living next door to C (Cyrus) Munroe. Caleb Howland was the son of Jonathan Howland and Lucinda White, and the elder brother of Friend White Howland. White states that Major Hobart sold the property to Ethan Monroe (1819-1900) of East Bridgewater whose occupation on the 1880 census is "Runs Box Mill." This is confirmed by the 1856 Walling Map, but the date of his purchase of the site is not known. Later in 1856, Ethan Monroe sold the home to Isaac Pratt (1814-1908), who is listed in state census records first as a "soap boiler" and later in 1865 as a soap manufacturer. In the deed, Ethan refers to the land as "Haiden Farm."<sup>1</sup> He also references a soap house which appears on the 1879 Walker Atlas as a soap factory. This structure is located further back on the property (west of the home towards Poor Meadow River). Isaac lived in the home at 482 Elm Street with his wife, Lucinda (1815-1883) (nee Howland) whom he married on October 25, 1836. Beginning with the 1870 U.S. Census, Isaac was listed as a farmer, as was his son, Edwin, who lived on the farm at that time. Isaac Pratt is shown as the owner on the 1903 Richards Atlas. At the time of the 1903 Richards Atlas, there are three buildings on the property and the main house was not yet connected to the barn.

After Isaac's death on March 31, 1908, the home passed to his son, Edwin W. Pratt (1839-1923), a farmer and Civil War veteran. At the age of 21, Edwin had enlisted and served for four years first as a private in the 18<sup>th</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 271, Page 264

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Massachusetts Infantries, and later as a corporal in the 32<sup>nd</sup>. He was engaged with his regiment in the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, including the siege of Yorktown, Second Bull Run, Antietam, and Shepardstown; the 1863 battles of Chancellorsville, Upperville and Gettysburg and the 1864 campaign against Richmond. He married Sarah Beal on March 9, 1864. In 1917, Edwin Pratt sold the home to G. W. Steadman of Brockton. White writes that the property changed hands after Edwin's death—but Edwin did not die until June 2, 1923. The property changed hands several times from 1917 to 1919.

Lithuanian immigrants William and Eva Stillman moved to 482 Elm Street in 1919 after purchasing the property from Frederick Hilton.<sup>2</sup> They lived there with their daughter, Ellen, for their entire lives. It is worth noting that the farm owned by the Pratts and Stillmans was considerably larger than the current property's nine acres. The farm was operated as a dairy farm into the 1930s, but the 1940 census lists daughter Ellen Stillman as an advertising manager for a cranberry company, while her younger sister Alberta, worked as a secretary for a cranberry company. Ellen Stillman(1912-2012) was considered to be a "pioneer in the cranberry industry"<sup>3</sup> and went on to own several bogs in Hanson as well as serve as the first woman on the Ocean Spray Board of Directors. In 1966 William Stillman granted his daughter joint tenancy with himself of his property holdings in Hanson and Halifax.<sup>4</sup> In 1994, Ellen placed the home in a trust. After Ellen's death in 2012, the trustees sold the home in 2013 to current owner, Joan Dmitruk.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1322, Page 394

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bostonglobe/obituary.aspx?n=ellen-stillman&pid=159654583&fhid=15204>

<sup>4</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3283, Page 662

<sup>5</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 13035 Page 135

<sup>6</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 43583, Page 133

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Ca. 1919 photo of house and attached barn. Photo taken from *Images of Hanson*, Page 38.

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### National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ **A** ☐ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D**

Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by Lara Kritzer

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The ca. 1800 Federal style Cape house is eligible for individual listing on the National Register under Criteria A for its association with the early settlement of Plymouth County and Massachusetts, and development of Hanson as a separate town. The house is also eligible under Criteria C as it has survived in its original location with both its setting and original architectural character intact despite over two centuries of use and alteration. The house embodies the distinctive character of early nineteenth century construction and illustrates how these homes were expanded and adapted over time to meet the changing needs of their residents. Additional information on the building's interior will also be needed for the Massachusetts Historical Commission to substantiate its National Register eligibility.